

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated June 8, 2006, claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 have been amended. Claims 1-7 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application is requested.

II. Specification Objections

On page (2) of the Office Action, the title was objected to as not being descriptive.

Applicant's attorney has amended the title as indicated above to overcome this objection.

III. Double Patent Rejection

On pages (2)-(3) of the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 4-6 were rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 and 4-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,728.

Applicants' attorney notes that this is a provisional double patenting rejection, since the claims in this application have not yet been indicated as being allowable. Applicants' attorney will substantively address these rejections upon an indication of otherwise allowable claims.

IV. Prior Art Rejections

On pages (3)-(5) of the Office Action, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,862,710 (Marchisio).

Applicants' attorney respectfully traverses these rejections in view of the amendments above and the arguments below. Specifically, the Applicants' amended claims are patentable over the references, because the claims contain limitations not taught by the references.

For example, Marchisio does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention of generating an inverse index of the collection of data that is augmented with category hierarchy information.

In addition, Marchisio does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention of generating results to the query in conjunction with the inverse index by performing a search request of the inverse index, and using results from the search request with a query of a relational database management system, wherein a match to an item in the inverse index also retrieves

corresponding category hierarchy information, which is then mapped to items in the relational database management system.

Instead, Marchisio merely describes the use of inverse indexes, but not their augmentation. Further, Marchisio merely describes the use of relational database management systems, but not the retrieval of category hierarchy information that augments an inverse index in order to map to items in the relational database management system.

In Applicants' invention, on the other hand, the RDBMS is used with the inverse index to respond to queries that involve a combination of structured information stored in the RDBMS and unstructured information existing in free text. The search of the unstructured information is performed using the inverse index, while the search of the structured information is performed using the results of the inverse index search.

However, in Applicants' invention, the free text information in the inverse index may not always correspond to individual items in the RDBMS. In general, there may be many items in the inverse index that correspond to categories of items in the RDBMS. In order to improve the efficiency of searches involving such items in the inverse index, the inverse index is further augmented with category hierarchy information. Thus, a match to an item in the inverse index will also retrieve corresponding category hierarchy information, which can then be mapped to items in the RDBMS.

Thus, Applicant's attorney submits that independent claims 1, 16 and 32 are allowable over the references. Further, dependent claims 2-15 and 17-31 are submitted to be allowable over the references in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1 and 16, respectively, and thus contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 2-15 and 17-31 recite additional novel elements not shown by the references.

IV. Conclusion

It is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

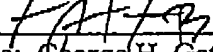
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